

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5 and 12-20 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-11 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent forms including all features of base and intervening claims. Applicant, however, wishes to defer amending claims 6-11 as suggested by the Office Action as claims 1 and 15, as amended, are patentable over prior art.

Claims 1-5 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Grant (U.S. 4,997,142) in view of Bocciola (U.S. 6,305,639).

Claim 1 and 15, as amended, recite, *inter alia*, **“a guide rib formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel,”** the subsidiary barrel disposed on the outer surface of the flange. Support for the amendment can be found in Figure 5, in the original claims 4 and 6, and at page 5, line 11-20.

As noted in the original claims 4 and 6, each flange contains a subsidiary barrel at outer surface of the flange, and at least one flange contains a through hole. Further, the present invention discloses a guide rib is formed substantially from the subsidiary barrel to the through hole (Figure 5).

Bocciola, as read by applicant, discloses a reel supporting optical fibers. However, **Bocciola explicitly teaches that its spool contains no element formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel** (Figure 2). Bocciola, instead, teaches that its spool contains a plurality of radial fins, which the Office Action equates with the present guide rib (See present Office Action page 2, line 15-18 (citing Bocciola, column 5, line 63-67)).

Applicant respectfully submits that the radial fins of Bocciola, however, are not formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel disposed at outer surface of the flange, as recited in claims 1 and 15. Instead, the fins are formed on the circumference of the disc-shaped closure element (Figure 1; column 5, line 61-67). Accordingly, Bocciola fails to teach, the “guide rib formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel,” as recited in new claims 1 and 15.

Grant, as read by applicant, teaches a plastic reel. However, **nowhere in Grant is there a guide rib formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel**, as disclosed in claims 1 and 15 (See Figure 1 of Grant). Thus, Grant also fails to show or teach the “guide rib formed from the through hole to the subsidiary barrel,” as recited in new claims 1 and 15.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Bocciola and Grant, alone or in combination, fail to teach all features recited in claims 1 and 15, and two references, alone or in combination, do not render the claims obvious.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection on these claims in accordance to such non-obviousness.

Other claims in this application are each dependent on the independent claims and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/694,977

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application is patentable in view of cited reference. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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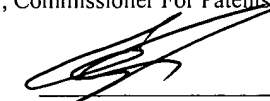
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